

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV), P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067

**MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 3, 2012
AT THE STATE VETERAN HOME, 4141 N. SILVESTRE HERRERA WAY,
PHOENIX, AZ 85012**

CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Lew Bradley, followed by Invocation by Chaplain Bo Bohach, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION: “Arizona Chapter, US Veterans Chamber of Commerce” – Melissa Lange, President, presented a brief history of the Arizona Chapter, US Veterans Chamber of Commerce: established in March 2010 by Ray Regan, Army veteran, to recognize Arizona veteran-owned businesses. Its mission: veterans helping veterans become business owners (networking, referrals, hiring of veterans). Networking lunch meetings with guest speakers are held in West Valley, Central, and East Valley. Currently there are 68 members. Membership is \$50/year. The national web site is: www.usvcc.com

PRESENTATION: “Memorial Day Commemorative Event, Surprise, AZ, Saturday, May 26” - Bill Lipscomb, USAF veteran, and Larry Brown, USMC veteran, briefed UAV members on the inaugural Memorial Day Commemorative Event being planned for Saturday, May 26 at the Royals/Rangers Baseball Stadium. Mrs. Debbie Lee, mother of the late Navy Seal Marc A. Lee, Operation Iraqi Freedom, will be the keynote speaker. The host organization is the Surprise West Valley Veterans.

PRESENTATION: “Honor Flight Arizona” – Dave Frasier, Treasurer, Honor Flight Arizona, presented a brief history of Honor Flight Arizona, which arranges 3-day trips for WWII veterans to Washington, D.C. Honor Flight started in Ohio in 2005, started in Arizona in 2008, there are 91 Honor Flight hubs in 38 states. The current average cost per WWII veteran and his/her escort is \$850 per person. Donations are welcome. Honor Flight Arizona’s web site: www.honorflightaz.org

ROLL CALL: Quorum established for conducting business.
February 4, 2012 Minutes: Motion to approve by Carol Culbertson, seconded by Sharon Woods. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT presented by Treasurer Jesse Gersten. Report is on file with the Secretary.

SICKNESS AND DISTRESS: Marilyn Bohach, wife of Bo, is recuperating from shoulder repair surgery. Joey Strickland is recuperating from a shoulder injury.

REPORTS:

1. Representative David Schweikert’s Office (R-AZ) - Dan Caldwell, Outreach

representative, briefed the UAV members regarding current issues: TRICARE fees increase, pushing retirees earlier to Medicare, 10 per cent increase in the VA's budget, a cut in DOD funding, Arizona as a testing site for unmanned vehicles, and recent Job Fair. Congressman Schweikert's office is a drop off point for Packages from Home: Hayden & Shea (SW quad of the middle bldg), Dan's phone: 480.946.2411. Web site: schweikert.house.gov

Scottsdale District Office

10603 North Hayden Rd, Ste 108
Scottsdale, AZ 85260

Phone (480) 946-2411, Fax (480) 946-2446

2. Arizona Dept of Veterans' Services – Homer Rodgers, Assistant Deputy Director briefed that the Federal Healthcare Survey at the Phoenix Veteran Home resulted in a Zero Deficiency assessment with all standards met. Survey also carried out at the Tucson Veteran Home with no major problems. Both Homes in excellent shape and serving veterans. Sierra Vista Cemetery expansion continues with improvements. Groundbreaking for the 2600 columbaria is anticipated for August 2012. AZDVS will implement the VDF (Veterans Donation Fund) Grant Program within the next 2 weeks to assist organizations needing funding. The Arizona MFRF (Military Family Relief Fund) continues to do well, approaching 1 million dollars of financial assistance to Arizona families of deployed military. AZDVS continues to work with Federal and community nonprofit partners to take as many homeless veterans as possible off the street (part of the Dept's CORE programs). In April all VBCs will participate in refresher training in Phoenix, VSO service officers are also invited to the VBC refresher training. AZDVS continues to support veterans events around the State with funding and guest speakers; Director Strickland spoke to a large group of Jewish War Veterans on February 19th. Student Veterans town hall meetings are scheduled in April at both the University of Arizona and NAU/Northern Arizona University. State license plates associated with fundraising are being eliminated. Planning is underway for the Memorial Day events; Memorial Day is Monday, May 28. AZDVS' and Director Strickland's biggest concern and focus this year will be finding jobs for returning Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom veterans, with Director Strickland working directly with the US Dept of Labor, the Guard and Reserve, and Arizona companies to create job fairs and find employment for returning veterans jobs.

3. UAV Board of Directors: Chairman Bradley reported a very successful Copper Sword/Copper Shield event which honored Barbara Hatch, high school history teacher whose many Cactus Shadows High School students have interviewed hundreds of veterans and published their stories for the past 7 years (Arizona Heritage Project). UAV honored Representative Jerry Weiers for the support he has given to Arizona veterans and their families. Approximately 250 guests participated in the event.

4. UAV Legislative Committee: UAV Legislative Chair David Lucier reported that House Bill 2675, a bill that would have required many Arizona university undergraduate

students to pay \$2,000 out-of-pocket toward their tuition, is now dead/withdrawn by Representative John Kavanagh.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Reminder: 2012 UAV dues are due; due date is 3/3/12.** Late organizations, Dues renewal forms are available from Treasurer Gersten or Secretary Culbertson. Please turn in your Renewal Form and \$25 to Treasurer Gersten, or mail both to: Treasurer, UAV, P.O. Box 34338, Phoenix 85067.
- 2. Reminder: Nominations for the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2012, are due on April 30, 2012 (postmark due date).** Mail to: Unified AZ Veterans, P.O. Box 34338, Phoenix 85067.

NEW BUSINESS/OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1. UAV Web Site -- Vice Chair Madden introduced Leticia Garcia, student; and Rowdy Duncan, Student Advisor, Paradise Valley Community College.** Ms. Garcia has already created several pages for the new web site.
- 2. Chairman Bradley will be traveling** in Japan, March 11-25.

GOOD OF THE ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Art Sloane** reported that the Maricopa Superior Court has approved the transfer to the Boots for Troops organization of a \$13,000 Basha's Grocery Store donation.
- 2. Monday, March 26, 2012 Korean War Veterans Tribute,** Wesley Bolin Plaza, 10 a.m.
- 3. Tuesday, March 27, 2012 free Military History program, "ENTERPRISE: America's Fightingest Ship and the Men Who Helped Win World War II,"** presented by Barrett Tillman, aviation writer, Macayo's Restaurant, 11:30 a.m. Point of contact: Carol Culbertson, email: claudefhc@yahoo.com, 602.943.7834
- 4. Friday, April 6, 2012 AUSA Golf Tournament at Luke AFB.** Point of contact: Jerry Sands at: G44Sands@peoplepc.com, 602.866.7412
- 5. Saturday, April 28, 2012 Veterans Helping Veterans event at Encanto Park** (picnic for homeless veterans)
- 6. Saturday, May 19, 2012 Women Veterans Luncheon at the VAMC Ambulatory Care Clinic Building's Basement Conference Center,** 10 am to 2 pm, contact: Sue Wudy, at: lilsarge@mindspring.com, 602.277.4168

7. Saturday, May 26, 2012 Memorial Day Commemoration, Royals/Rangers Baseball Stadium, Surprise, AZ, 6:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast followed by 8:30 a.m. Program. Point of contact: Larry Brown at: LarryAZ1@aol.com (LarryAZ-number 1-@aol.com)

8. 50/50 Raffle winner: Gayle Reed \$35, and \$35 to the UAV Treasury.

Next Meeting: Saturday, April 7, 2012, State Veteran Home, Liberty Hall, 2nd Floor, 10 am to Noon.

Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.

Meeting adjourned at 12 Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

CAROL CULBERTSON
Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans
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Email: claudhec@yahoo.com